

Introduced by Senator Calderon

February 24, 2009

An act to amend Section 512 of the Labor Code, relating to employment.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 287, as introduced, Calderon. Meal periods.

Existing law requires an employer to provide an employee who works more than 5 hours in a workday with a meal period of not less than 30 minutes, unless the employee works no more than 6 hours in a workday and the meal period is waived by mutual consent. An employer also is required to provide an employee who works more than 10 hours in a workday with a 2nd meal period of not less than 30 minutes, unless the employee works no more than 12 hours, the first meal period was not waived, and the 2nd meal period is waived by mutual consent. The Industrial Welfare Commission (IWC) of the Department of Industrial Relations adopts and amends wage orders that, among other things, specify how meal periods are required to be provided to covered employees within various industries, including the procedures for providing employees with on-duty meal periods.

This bill would revise the statutory requirements for the provision of meal periods to specify that the requirements apply only to employees subject to the meal period provisions of an order of the IWC. The statutory requirements for providing the meal periods would be revised to specify that a meal period based on working more than 5 hours in a workday is required to be provided before the employee completes 6 hours of work, unless the existing waiver provision is invoked. The waiver provision for the 2nd meal period would be changed to provide an exception for different provisions within IWC wage orders in effect

as of January 1, 2009, and to permit the employer and employee to agree to waive either the first or the 2nd meal period if the employee otherwise is entitled to 2 meal periods. The bill also would specify conditions under which on-duty meal periods are permitted rather than meal periods in which the employee is relieved of all duty. The meal period provisions of a valid collective bargaining agreement would be required to be implemented for covered employees rather than the statutory requirements.

The bill would require that orders of the IWC be interpreted in a manner consistent with this section, and would require the Department of Industrial Relations to amend and republish specified IWC wage orders to be consistent with the revised meal period requirements.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 512 of the Labor Code is amended to
2 read:
3 512. (a) An employer ~~may~~ shall not employ an employee ~~for~~
4 ~~a work period of who is subject to the meal period provisions of~~
5 ~~an order of the Industrial Welfare Commission and who works~~
6 more than five hours ~~per day~~ in a workday without providing the
7 employee with ~~a one off-duty meal period of not less than 30~~
8 ~~minutes, except that if the total work period per day of the~~
9 ~~employee is no more than six hours, the meal period may be waived~~
10 ~~by mutual consent of both the employer and employee per workday~~
11 ~~before the employee completes six hours of work. If an employee~~
12 ~~works no more than six hours per workday, the employer and~~
13 ~~employee may agree to waive the employer's duty of providing the~~
14 ~~employee with a meal period. An employer may~~ shall not employ
15 an employee ~~for a work period of who is subject to the meal period~~
16 ~~provisions of an order of the Industrial Welfare Commission and~~
17 ~~who works more than 10 hours per day in a workday without~~
18 providing the employee with a second *off-duty* meal period ~~of not~~
19 ~~less than 30 minutes, except that if the total hours worked is no~~
20 ~~more than 12 hours, the second meal period may be waived by~~
21 ~~mutual consent of the employer and the employee only if the first~~
22 ~~meal period was not waived. Except as authorized by an Industrial~~
23 ~~Welfare Commission wage order in effect as of January 1, 2009,~~

1 if an employee works no more than 12 hours in a workday, the
2 employer and employee may agree to waive the employer's duty
3 of providing the employee with either the first or the second meal
4 period, but not both.

5 (b) For purposes of this section, the following terms shall have
6 the following meanings:

7 (1) "Off-duty meal period" means a meal period of not less
8 than 30 minutes during which the employee is relieved of all duty.

9 (2) "Providing the employee with" means making available to
10 the employee.

11 (c) An on-duty meal period shall qualify as a lawful meal period
12 under subdivision (a) if an employee is covered by an Industrial
13 Welfare Commission wage order that authorizes an on-duty meal
14 period and all of the following conditions are satisfied:

15 (1) The employer and the employee have entered into a written
16 agreement for an on-duty meal period which includes a statement
17 that the employee may revoke the agreement in writing with no
18 less than three business days' notice to the employer if the
19 applicable Industrial Welfare Commission wage order authorizes
20 the employee to revoke the agreement.

21 (2) The employee has an opportunity to eat while on duty.

22 (3) The on-duty meal period is counted as time worked.

23 (4) The nature of the work prevents the employee from being
24 relieved of all duty.

25 (d) The nature of the work of an employee prevents that
26 employee from being relieved of all duty, pursuant to paragraph
27 (4) of subdivision (c), if at least one of the following conditions
28 exists:

29 (1) The employee works alone or is the only person in the
30 employee's job classification who is on duty at the location or in
31 the department, or there are no other qualified employees who
32 can reasonably relieve the employee of all duty.

33 (2) State or federal law imposes a requirement that the employee
34 remain on duty at all times.

35 (3) The nature of the work or the relevant circumstances make
36 it unreasonable or unsafe for the employee to be relieved of all
37 duty.

38 (4) The work product, or processing of the product, including
39 the transportation or delivery of the product, will be destroyed or
40 damaged if the employee is relieved of all duty.

1 (5) *The employee has direct responsibility for children who are*
2 *under 18 years of age or who are not emancipated from the foster*
3 *care system and who, in either case, are receiving 24-hour*
4 *residential care, or is an employee of a 24-hour residential care*
5 *facility for the elderly, blind, or developmentally disabled*
6 *individuals.*

7 (e) *If an employee is entitled to two meal periods pursuant to*
8 *subdivision (a), both meal periods may be on-duty meal periods*
9 *if the requirements of subdivision (c) are met.*

10 (f) *This section does not apply to an employee covered by a*
11 *collective bargaining agreement that includes provisions pertaining*
12 *to meal periods. The terms, conditions, and remedies of the valid*
13 *collective bargaining agreement pertaining to meal periods apply*
14 *instead.*

15 (g) *All orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission shall be*
16 *interpreted in a manner consistent with this section. The*
17 *Department of Industrial Relations shall amend and republish*
18 *Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order Numbers 1 to 13,*
19 *inclusive, and 15 to 17, inclusive, to be consistent with this section,*
20 *but shall make no other changes to the wage orders.*

21 ~~(b)~~

22 (h) *Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the Industrial Welfare*
23 *Commission may adopt a working condition order permitting a*
24 *meal period to commence after six hours of work if the commission*
25 *determines that the order is consistent with the health and welfare*
26 *of the affected employees.*

27 ~~(e)~~

28 (i) *Subdivision (a) does not apply to an employee in the*
29 *wholesale baking industry who is subject to an Industrial Welfare*
30 *Commission wage order and who is covered by a valid collective*
31 *bargaining agreement that provides for a 35-hour workweek*
32 *consisting of five ~~seven-hour~~ 7-hour days, payment of ~~1~~ and $\frac{1}{2}$*
33 *one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for time worked in*
34 *excess of seven hours per day, and a rest period of not less than*
35 *10 minutes every two hours.*

36 ~~(d)~~

37 (j) *If an employee in the motion picture industry or the*
38 *broadcasting industry, as those industries are defined in Industrial*
39 *Welfare Commission Wage ~~Orders~~ Order Numbers 11 and 12, is*
40 *covered by a valid collective bargaining agreement that provides*

1 for meal periods and includes a monetary remedy if the employee
2 does not receive a meal period required by the agreement, then the
3 terms, conditions, and remedies of the agreement pertaining to
4 meal periods apply in lieu of the applicable provisions pertaining
5 to meal periods of subdivision (a) of this section, Section 226.7,
6 and Industrial Welfare Commission Wage-Orders *Order Numbers*
7 11 and 12.

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